

1957 in the United States

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Events from the year **1957 in the United States**.

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Incumbents

Federal Government

- President: Dwight D. Eisenhower (R-Kansas/New York)
- Vice President: Richard Nixon (R-California)
- Chief Justice: Earl Warren (California)
- Speaker of the House of Representatives: Sam Rayburn (D–Texas)
- Senate Majority Leader: Lyndon B. Johnson (D-Texas)
- Congress: 84th (until January 3), 85th (starting January 3)

Governors and Lieutenant Governors

Governors

- Governor of Alabama: Jim Folsom (Democratic)
- Governor of Arizona: Ernest McFarland (Democratic)
- Governor of Arkansas: Orval Faubus (Democratic)
- Governor of California: Goodwin Knight (Republican)
- Governor of Colorado: Edwin C. Johnson (Democratic) (until January 8), Stephen L. R. McNichols (Democratic) (starting January 8)
- Governor of Connecticut: Abraham A. Ribicoff (Democratic)
- Governor of Delaware: J. Caleb Boggs (Republican)
- Governor of Florida: LeRoy Collins (Democratic)
- Governor of Georgia: Marvin Griffin (Democratic)
- Governor of Idaho: Robert E. Smylie (Republican)
- Governor of Illinois: William G. Stratton (Democratic)
- Governor of Indiana: George N. Craig (Republican) (until January 14), Harold W. Handley (Republican) (starting January 14)
- Governor of Iowa: Leo A. Hoegh (Republican) (until January 17), Herschel C. Loveless (Democratic) (starting January 17)
- Governor of Kansas:
 - until January 3: Fred Hall (Republican)
 - January 3 – January 14: John McCuish (Republican)
 - starting January 14: George Docking (Democratic)
- Governor of Kentucky: Happy Chandler (Democratic)
- Governor of Louisiana: Earl K. Long (Democratic)
- Governor of Maine: Edmund Muskie (Democratic)
- Governor of Maryland: Theodore R. McKeldin (Republican)
- Governor of Massachusetts: Christian A. Herter (Republican) (until January 3), Foster Furcolo (Democratic) (starting January 3)
- Governor of Michigan: G. Mennen Williams (Democratic)
- Governor of Minnesota: Orville L. Freeman (Democratic)
- Governor of Mississippi: James P. Coleman (Democratic)
- Governor of Missouri: Phil M. Donnelly (Democratic) (until January 14), James T. Blair, Jr. (Democratic) (starting January 14)
- Governor of Montana: J. Hugo Aronson (Republican)
- Governor of Nebraska: Victor E. Anderson (Republican)
- Governor of Nevada: Charles H. Russell (Republican)
- Governor of New Hampshire: Lane Dwinell (Republican)
- Governor of New Jersey: Robert B. Meyner (Democratic)
- Governor of New Mexico: John F. Simms (Democratic) (until January 1), Edwin L. Mechem (Republican) (starting January 1)
- Governor of New York: W. Averell Harriman (Democratic)
- Governor of North Carolina: Luther H. Hodges (Democratic)
- Governor of North Dakota: Clarence Norman Brunsdale (Republican) (until January 3), John E. Davis (Republican) (starting January 3)
- Governor of Ohio:
 - until January 3: Frank J. Lausche (Democratic)
 - January 3 – January 14: John William Brown (Republican)
 - starting January 14: C. William O'Neill (Republican)
- Governor of Oklahoma: Raymond D. Gary (Democratic)
- Governor of Oregon: Elmo Smith (Republican) (until January 14), Robert D. Holmes (Democratic) (starting January 14)
- Governor of Pennsylvania: George M. Leader (Democratic)
- Governor of Rhode Island: Dennis J. Roberts (Democratic)
- Governor of South Carolina: George Bell Timmerman, Jr. (Democratic)
- Governor of South Dakota: Joe Foss (Republican)
- Governor of Tennessee: Frank G. Clement (Democratic)
- Governor of Texas: Allan Shivers (Democratic) (until January 15), Price Daniel (Democratic) (starting January 15)
- Governor of Utah: J. Bracken Lee (Republican) (until January 7), George Dewey Clyde (Republican) (starting January 7)
- Governor of Vermont: Joseph B. Johnson (Republican)
- Governor of Virginia: Thomas Bahnon Stanley (Democratic)
- Governor of Washington: Arthur B. Langlie (Republican) (until January 14), Albert D. Rosellini (Democratic) (starting January 14)
- Governor of West Virginia: William C. Marland (Democratic) (until January 14), Cecil H. Underwood (Republican) (starting January 14)
- Governor of Wisconsin: Walter J. Kohler, Jr. (Republican) (until January 7), Vernon W. Thomson (Republican) (starting January 7)
- Governor of Wyoming: Milward L. Simpson (Republican)

Lieutenant Governors

- Lieutenant Governor of Alabama: William G. Hardwick (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Arkansas: Nathan Green Gordon (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of California: Harold J. Powers (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Colorado: Stephen L. R. McNichols (Democratic) (until January 8), Frank L. Hays (Republican) (starting January 8)
- Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut: Charles W. Jewett (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Delaware: John W. Rollins (Democratic) (until January 15), David P. Buckson (Republican) (starting January 15)
- Lieutenant Governor of Georgia: S. Ernest Vandiver (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Idaho: J. Berkeley Larsen (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Illinois: John William Chapman (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Indiana: Harold W. Handley (Republican) (until January 15), Crawford F. Parker (Republican) (starting January 15)
- Lieutenant Governor of Iowa: Leo Elthon (Republican) (until January 17), William H. Nicholas (Republican) (starting January 17)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kansas: John McCuish (Republican) (until January 8), Joseph W. Henkle, Sr. (Democratic) (starting January 8)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky: Harry Lee Waterfield (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana: Lether Frazar (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts: Sumner G. Whittier (Democratic) (until January 3), Robert F. Murphy (Democratic) (starting January 3)
- Lieutenant Governor of Michigan: Philip A. Hart (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota: Karl Rolvaag (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Mississippi: Carroll Gartin (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Missouri: James T. Blair, Jr. (Democratic) (until January 14), Edward V. Long (Democratic) (starting January 14)
- Lieutenant Governor of Montana: George M. Gosman (Republican) (until month and day unknown), Paul Cannon (Democratic) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nebraska: vacant (until January 10), Dwight W. Burney (Republican) (starting January 10)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nevada: Rex Bell (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of New Mexico: Joseph Montoya (Democratic) (until April), vacant (starting April)
- Lieutenant Governor of New York: George DeLuca (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina: vacant (until month and day unknown), Luther E. Barnhardt (Democratic) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of North Dakota: Clarence P. Dahl (Republican) (until January 9), Francis Clyde Duffy (Republican) (starting January 9)
- Lieutenant Governor of Ohio:
 - until January 3: John William Brown (Republican)
 - January 3 – January 14: vacant
 - starting January 14: Paul M. Herbert (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Oklahoma: Cowboy Pink Williams (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania: Roy E. Furman (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Rhode Island: vacant (until month and day unknown), Armand H. Cote (Democratic) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina: Ernest Hollings (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of South Dakota: L. Roy Houck (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Tennessee: Jared Maddux (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Texas: Ben Ramsey (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Vermont: Consuelo N. Bailey (Republican) (until January 10), Robert T. Stafford (Republican) (starting January 10)
- Lieutenant Governor of Virginia: Allie Edward Stokes Stephens (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Washington: Emmett T. Anderson (Republican) (until January 14), John Cherberg (Democratic) (starting January 14)

- Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin: Warren P. Knowles (Republican)

Events

January

- January 2 – The San Francisco and Los Angeles stock exchanges merge to form the Pacific Coast Stock Exchange.
- January 6 – Elvis Presley appears on *The Ed Sullivan Show* for the 3rd and final time. He is only shown from the waist up, even during the gospel segment, singing "Peace In The Valley". Ed Sullivan describes Elvis thus: "This is a real decent, fine boy. We've never had a pleasanter experience on our show with a big name than we've had with you. You're thoroughly alright."
- January 20 – Dwight D. Eisenhower is inaugurated for a second term as President of the United States.
- January 22 – The New York City "Mad Bomber", George P. Metesky, is arrested in Waterbury, Connecticut, and is charged with planting more than 30 bombs.
- January 23 – Ku Klux Klan members force truck driver Willie Edwards to jump off a bridge into the Alabama River; he drowns as a result.
- January 31 – Pacoima aircraft accident: Three students on a junior high school playground in Pacoima, California, are among the 8 persons killed following a mid-air collision between a Douglas DC-7 airliner and a Northrop F-89 Scorpion fighter jet, in the skies above the San Fernando Valley section of Los Angeles.



Dwight D. Eisenhower, the President of the United States, began his second term on January 20

February

- February 4 – The first nuclear-powered submarine, the USS *Nautilus* (SSN-571), logs its 60,000th nautical mile, matching the endurance of the fictional *Nautilus* described in Jules Verne's novel *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*.
- February 17 – The Warrenton Nursing Home Fire kills 72 people.
- February 25 – The "Boy In The Box" is discovered along a sidewalk in Philadelphia. The murder victim is described as Caucasian in appearance and 4 to 6 years old; the case is never solved.

March

- March 7 – The United States Congress approves the Eisenhower Doctrine.
- March 10 – Floodgates of The Dalles Dam are closed, inundating Celilo Falls and ancient Native American fisheries along the Columbia River in Oregon.
- March 13 – The U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation arrests Jimmy Hoffa and charges him with bribery.
- March 26 – 22-year-old Elvis Presley buys Graceland on 3734 Bellevue Boulevard (Highway 51 South) for \$100,000. He and his family move from the house on 1034 Audubon Drive.
- March 27 – The 29th Academy Awards ceremony is held.

- March 31 – Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*, the team's only musical written especially for television, is telecast live and in color by CBS, starring Julie Andrews in the title role. The production is seen by millions, but this 1957 version is not telecast again for more than 40 years, when a kinescope of it is shown.

April

- April 12 – Allen Ginsberg's poem *Howl*, printed in England, is seized by U.S. customs officials on the grounds of obscenity.

May

- May 2 – Vincent Gigante fails to assassinate mafioso Frank Costello in Manhattan.
- May 3 – Brooklyn Dodgers owner Walter O'Malley agrees to move the team from Brooklyn, to Los Angeles.

June

- June 15 – Oklahoma celebrates its semi-centennial statehood. A brand new 1957 Plymouth Belvedere is buried in a time capsule (to be opened 50 years later on June 15, 2007).
- June 20 – 1957 Fargo Tornado starts at 7:30 pm.
- June 25 – The United Church of Christ is formed in Cleveland, Ohio by the merger of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church.
- June 27 – Hurricane Audrey demolishes Cameron, Louisiana, killing 400 people.

July

- July 9 – Elvis Presley's *Loving You* opens in movie theaters.
- July 16 – United States Marine Major John Glenn flies an F8U supersonic jet from California to New York in 3 hours, 23 minutes and 8 seconds, setting a new transcontinental speed record.

August

- August 5 – *American Bandstand*, a local dance show produced by WFIL-TV in Philadelphia, joins the ABC Television Network.
- August 21 – U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower announces a 2-year suspension of nuclear testing.
- August 28 – United States Senator Strom Thurmond (D-SC) sets the record for the longest filibuster with his 24-hour, 18-minute speech railing against a civil rights bill.

September

- September 4



March 26: Elvis Presley buys Graceland

- American Civil Rights Movement – Governor Orville Faubus of Arkansas calls out the National Guard of the United States to prevent the "Little Rock Nine" African-American students from enrolling in Little Rock Central High School.
- The Ford Motor Company introduces the Edsel on what the company proclaims as "E Day".
- September 9
 - Civil Rights Act of 1957 enacted, setting up the United States Commission on Civil Rights.
 - Catholic Memorial High School opens its doors for the first time in Boston, Massachusetts.
- September 24 – U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower sends federal troops to Arkansas to provide safe passage into Little Rock Central High School for the Little Rock Nine.
- September 26 – *West Side Story*, a new musical by Leonard Bernstein, Jerome Robbins, Arthur Laurents and Stephen Sondheim opens at the Winter Garden Theatre on Broadway.



September: Little Rock Nine

October

- October 9 – Neil H. McElroy is sworn in as United States Secretary of Defense.
- October 10
 - U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower apologizes to the finance minister of Ghana, Komla Agbeli Gbedemah, after he is refused service in a restaurant in Dover, Delaware.
 - Ayn Rand's novel *Atlas Shrugged* is published.
- October 11 – The orbit of the last stage of the R-7 Semyorka rocket (carrying Sputnik I) is first successfully calculated on an IBM 704 computer by teams at The M.I.T. Computation Center and Operation Moonwatch, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- October 21 – The U.S. military sustains its first combat fatality in Vietnam, Army Capt. Hank Cramer of the 1st Special Forces Group.
- October 25 – Mafia boss Albert Anastasia is assassinated in a barber shop, at the Park Sheraton Hotel in New York City.
- October 31 – Toyota begins exporting vehicles to the U.S., beginning with the Toyota Crown and the Toyota Land Cruiser

November

- November 1 – The Mackinac Bridge, the world's longest suspension bridge between anchorages at the time, opens to traffic connecting Michigan's two peninsulas.
- November 6 – *Jailhouse Rock* opens nationally and Elvis Presley continues to gain more notoriety.
- November 7 – Cold War: In the United States, the Gaither Report calls for more American missiles and fallout shelters.
- November 14 – Apalachin Meeting: American Mafia leaders meet in Apalachin, New York, at the house of Joseph Barbara; the meeting is broken up by a curious patrolman.
- November 16
 - Edward Gein murders his last victim, Bernice Worden of Plainfield, Wisconsin.
 - Oklahoma celebrates its 50th anniversary of statehood.
 - Notre Dame beats the Oklahoma Sooners 7–0 to end the Sooners record 47 straight college football winning streak.
- November 25 – U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower suffers a stroke.

December

- December 2 – Shippingport Atomic Power Station goes onstream; commercial operation begins on May 26, 1958.
- December 6 – Vanguard TV3, the first U.S. attempt to launch a satellite, fails with the rocket blowing up on the launch pad.
- December 19 – Meredith Willson's classic musical *The Music Man*, starring Robert Preston, debuts on Broadway.
- December 20 – The Boeing 707 airliner flies for the first time.
- December 22 – The CBS afternoon anthology series *Seven Lively Arts* presents Tchaikovsky's ballet *The Nutcracker* on U.S. television for the first time.

Undated

- Operation Dropshot, an all-out U.S. war with the Soviet Union, is expected to be triggered by the Soviet takeover of Western Europe, the Near East and parts of Eastern Asia, as it was anticipated in 1949.

Births

- January 6 – Nancy Lopez, golfer
 - Spike Lee, film director and actor
- May 21 – Judge Reinhold, actor
- September 27 – Peter Sellars, theatre director

Deaths

- January 14 – Humphrey Bogart, film actor (born 1899)
- January 16 – Arturo Toscanini, Italian-born orchestral conductor (born 1867)
- February 10 – Laura Ingalls Wilder, author (born 1867)
- Bugs Moran, gangster (born 1893)
- March 11 – Richard E. Byrd, explorer (born 1888)
- May 2 – Joseph McCarthy, U.S. Senator from 1947 till 1957 (born 1908)
- May 13 – Robert A. "Fuzzy" Theobald, admiral (born 1884)
- May 16 – Eliot Ness, Prohibition agent (born 1903)
 - Jimmy Dorsey, big band leader (born 1904)
- July 8 – Grace Coolidge, wife of Calvin Coolidge, First Lady of the United States, Second Lady of the United States (born 1879)
- August 7 – Oliver Hardy, comic film actor (born 1892)
- September 2 – Bobby Myers, race car driver (killed in racetrack accident) (born 1927)
- October 13 — Erich Auerbach, German philologist, literary critic and comparative scholar (born 1892)
- October 25 – Albert Anastasia, Italian American gangster (born 1902)
- October 29 – Louis B. Mayer, Belarusian-born film studio head (born 1885)
- November 29 – Erich Korngold, Austrian-born composer (born 1897)
- December 10 – Maurice McLoughlin, tennis player (born 1890)




December 2:
Shippingport
Reactor goes online

- December 24 – Norma Talmadge, silent film actress (born 1893)

See also

- List of American films of 1957

External links

-  Media related to 1957 in the United States at Wikimedia Commons

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